Static Oil Production

178. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of oil has been static during the last three years;

(b) if so, whether Government have plans to boost the crude production to meet the increasing demand of petroleum products in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) Though production of oil has not been static, the following steps have been taken to increase crude production:—

(i) Intensification of exploration, whilh may eventually lead to enhanced production.

(ii) Intensification of work-over operations.

(iii) Use of enhanced oil recovery techniques; and

(iv) Induction of advanced technology.

Flaring up of Gas

179. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what quantity of natural gas this, in terms of its production cost of the country;

(b) what is the net loss per day to this, in terms of its production cost as well as in terms of its issue price;

(c) what action is contemplated to reduce this flaring up of gas; and

(d) whether any time bound programme has been chalked out in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) The total quantity of gas flared in 1986-87 in the country was about 3000 million cubic metre.

(b) The value of this gas, at the rate of Rs. 100 per 1000 M3, is about Rs. 30 crores.

(c) and (d) The following steps are being taken to reduce flaring:—

—Additional compression facilities are being provided in the Westerm off-shore region.

—Plans are being made for utilisation of small quantities of natural gas, which is being flared in isolated fields in Gujarat region.

—In the Eastern Region, ONGC and OIL have committed gas to new consumers.

—GAIL have also undertaken a study on connecting various oil/gas fields in Assam by network of pipeline to form a Grid.

—Fall-back consumers are being developed to utilise gas when regular consumers fail to lift the committed quantities.

Oil Exploration in Kerala and West Bengal

180. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to begin off-shore oil exploration in Kerala and West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is expected to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) These areas are already under exploration. At present, exploratory drilling of one well each is continuing in Kerala-Konkon (Cochin-High-I) and Bengal offshore (SM-M-I) Basins.

Simplifying rules for Small Scales Industries Sector

181. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government propose to simplify the rules and procedures guiding the small scale industries sector to facilitate their rapid growth; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Simplification of rules and procedures for the Small Scale Industries Sector to facilitate its rapid growth is a continuing process. Government has announced number of simplifications in rules and procedures for helping the sector to avail of various facilities and concessions extended to it from time to time which include adoption of unified application form for advancing loans to small scale industries by banking institutions; facility to introduce margin money in States, simplification of procedure for availing of excise concessions under the Small Scale Exemption Scheme such as self assessment procedure for clearances upto Rs. 50 lakhs, restriction of excise inspection to maximum once a year for each small scale unit and treating mere postal acknowledgement of application for licence as an excise licence, etc.

Issue of letters of intent for setting up industries

182. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of letters of intent issued by Government during the years 1985, 1986 and so far in 1987 for setting up industries;

(b) what is the number of letters of intent issued during the same period for setting up industries in backward areas and in no-industry districts;

(c) the number of industries actually set-up;

(d) the reasons for which industries were not set up by people holding letters of intent;

(e) whether Government propose to hold an Inquiry to find out the number of fake entrepreneurs who seek letters of intent but do not set up industries; and

(f) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the I (D&R) Act, the following number of letters of intent have been granted during